

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
132ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

August 2025

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REP. BRIAN REYNOLDS*

STAFF:

ANNE DAVISON, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670
<http://legislature.maine.gov/opla>

*Committee member for a portion of the session

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

LD 1548 An Act to Prevent the Introduction or Transfer of Invasive Fish Species in Inland Waters of the State

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 343 increases the suspension and revocation of a fishing license from five years to 10 years for the following three offenses: failing to acquire a permit to import live freshwater fish or eggs except for live baitfish or smelts; failure to acquire a permit to stock inland waters; and failure to acquire a permit to import live fish taken within the State. It reduces the mandatory suspension of a fishing license for the violation of illegal possession of live fish from five years to one year. It adds mandatory restitution for failing to acquire a permit to stock inland waters and failing to acquire a permit to introduce fish or fish eggs into a private pond, and directs the court to order an offender to pay the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife an amount equal to the cost of labor, equipment, chemicals and all other related expenses directly associated with mitigating or reclaiming waters affected as a result of a violation and requires the offender to provide the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife proof of that payment.

Previously, the law required a permit to transport live fish for breeding and advertising. Public Law 2025, chapter 343 eliminates the specific activities of breeding and advertising so the permit is required more generally for transport of live fish except for live baitfish and smelts taken within the State.

Public Law 2025, chapter 343 creates a prohibition for disposal of live baitfish or smelts into inland waters, which is a civil violation. It also changes references to gametes and fish spawn to fish eggs.

LD 1623 An Act to Amend Certain Fish and Wildlife Laws Related to Landowner Representation Regarding Abandoned Property

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 267 allows a landowner's representative to act on behalf of a landowner regarding the placement of a ladder, an observation stand, a camera or electronic surveillance equipment or the operation of an all-terrain vehicle on the landowner's property. It requires persons operating all-terrain vehicles upon the land of another to stop and identify themselves upon the request of the lessee of the land. It provides that a landowner, lessee or landowner's representative may limit in writing the use of a designated state-approved ATV trail on that landowner's or lessee's property. It provides that if a landowner or landowner's representative finds an abandoned ladder, an observation stand, a camera or electronic surveillance equipment on the landowner's land in violation of law and the owner of the ladder, observation stand, camera or electronic surveillance equipment is unknown, the landowner or the landowner's representative may take ownership of the abandoned ladder, observation stand, camera or electronic surveillance

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equipment. The law authorizes the landowner or the landowner's representative to remove, destroy, sell or possess the abandoned ladder, observation stand, camera or electronic surveillance equipment.

LD 1763 An Act to Regulate Nonwater-dependent Floating Structures on Maine's Waters

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 378 implements a prohibition on the placement or use of a nonwater-dependent floating structure on internal waters of the State. “Nonwater-dependent floating structure” is defined to mean a waterborne structure that is supported wholly or partially by the structure's own buoyancy and that supports a nonwater-dependent use. “Nonwater-dependent uses” is defined as those uses that can function in a location other than the surface waters of the State and that do not require, for their primary purpose, location on submerged lands or direct access to internal waters. The prohibition includes exceptions for functionally water-dependent uses; swimming structures; water toys; ice fishing shacks; aquaculture facilities; authorized nonwater-dependent floating structures; preexisting nonwater-dependent floating structures; and other facilities and structures exempted through agency rulemaking. The law establishes criteria for authorized and preexisting nonwater-dependent floating structures. Public Law 2025, chapter 378 establishes penalties for violating the prohibition on nonwater-dependent floating structures.

Public Law 2025, chapter 378 also directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, by February 1, 2026, to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife with updated information on nonwater-dependent floating structures in the State and the implementation of the law. The report may include recommendations for statutory changes. The law authorizes the committee to report out a bill based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.